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February 27, 2004

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Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Art Unit 3746

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Application No. 10/720,145; Filed: November 25, 2003
For: **Combustion System With Shutdown Fuel Purge**
Inventors: Willis *et al.*
Our Ref: 2066.0180002

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Information Disclosure Statement;
2. PTO Form 1449, Listing 16 documents; and
3. One Return Postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

Commissioner for Patents
February 27, 2004
Page 2

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Virgil L. Beaton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "V" and a stylized "B".

Virgil L. Beaton
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 47,415

VLB/mhd

235296



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Willis *et al.*

Appl. No.: 10/720,145

Filed: November 25, 2003

For: **Combustion System With
Shutdown Fuel Purge**

Confirmation No.: 4309

Art Unit: 3746

Examiner: To Be Assigned

Atty. Docket: 2066.0180002

Information Disclosure Statement

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Listed on accompanying Form PTO-1449 are documents that may be considered material to the examination of this application, in compliance with the duty of disclosure requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98.

Applicants have listed publication dates on the attached PTO-1449 based on information presently available to the undersigned. However, the listed publication dates should not be construed as an admission that the information was actually published on the date indicated.

Applicants reserve the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered.

This statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, or that information more material to the examination of the present patent

application does not exist. The Examiner is specifically requested not to rely solely on the material submitted herewith.

Applicants have checked the appropriate boxes below.

- ☐ 1. Statement under 37 C.F.R. 1.704(d). Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.
- ☒ 2. Filing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b). This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the date of filing of a national application other than a continued prosecution application (CPA), OR within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.491 in an international application, OR before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits OR before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. No statement or fee is required.
- ☐ 3. Filing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c). This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection, or Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.
 - ☐ a. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1). I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first

cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).

☐ b. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2). I hereby state that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).

☐ c. Attached is our PTO-2038 Credit Card Payment Form in the amount of \$_____ in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

☐ 4. Filing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d) This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee. Enclosed find our PTO-2038 Credit Card Payment Form in the amount of \$_____ in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p); in addition:

☐ a. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1). I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).

- ☐ b. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2). I hereby state that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).
- ☐ 5. The document(s) was/were cited in a search report by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application. Submission of an English language version of the search report that indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office is provided in satisfaction of the requirement for a concise explanation of relevance. 1138 OG 37, 38.
- ☐ 6. A concise explanation of the relevance of the non-English language document(s) appears below:
- ☐ 7. Copies of the documents are submitted herewith.
- ☒ 8. Copies of the documents were cited by or submitted to the Office in an IDS that complies with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)-(c) in Application No.09/969,491, filed October 2, 2001, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120. Thus, copies of these documents are not attached. 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d).

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return a copy of the enclosed PTO-1449, and indicate in the official file wrapper of this patent application that the documents have been considered.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

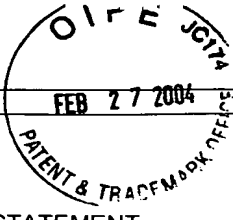
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Date: 27 FEB 04

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FORM PTO-1449

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENTATTY. DOCKET NO.
2066.0180002APPLICATION NO.
10/720,145FIRST NAMED INVENTOR
Jeffrey W. WillisFILING DATE
November 25, 2003ART UNIT
3746**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
	AA1	4,041,695	08/1977	Harper <i>et al.</i>			
	AB1	4,062,183	12/1977	Davies <i>et al.</i>			
	AC1	4,423,595	01/1984	McLean			
	AD1	5,417,054	05/1995	Lee <i>et al.</i>			
	AE1	5,819,524	10/1998	Bosley <i>et al.</i>			
	AF1	5,850,732	12/1998	Willis <i>et al.</i>			
	AG1	5,873,235	02/1999	Bosley <i>et al.</i>			
	AH1	5,899,673	05/1999	Bosley <i>et al.</i>			
	AI1	6,050,081	04/2000	Jansen <i>et al.</i>			
	AJ1	6,125,624	10/2000	Prociw			
	AK1	6,405,522	06/2002	Pont <i>et al.</i>			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION
	AL1	99/52193	10/1999	WO			Yes No
	AM1						Yes No
	AN1						Yes No
	AO1						Yes No
	AP1						Yes No

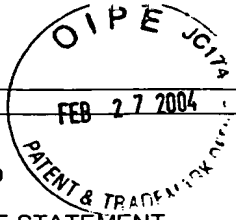
OTHER (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

	AR	1	Patent Abstracts of Japan, Publication No. 2000248694, Publication Date December 9, 2000, 1 page.
	AS	1	Patent Abstracts of Japan, Publication No. 2001153364, Publication Date November 25, 1999, 1 page.
	AT	1	

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.



FORM PTO-1449

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENTATTY. DOCKET NO.
2066.0180002APPLICATION NO.
10/720,145FIRST NAMED INVENTOR
Jeffrey W. WillisFILING DATE
November 25, 2003ART UNIT
3746**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
	AA2	6,487,096	11/2002	Gilbreth <i>et al.</i>			
	AB2	6,675,583	01/2004	Willis <i>et al.</i>			
	AC2						
	AD2						
	AE2						
	AF2						
	AG2						
	AH2						
	AI2						
	AJ2						
	AK2						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION
	AL2						Yes No
	AM2						Yes No
	AN2						Yes No
	AO2						Yes No
	AP2						Yes No

OTHER (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

	AR	2	
	AS	2	
	AT	2	

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.